

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Currently amended) The method of preparing bags for produce or the

like, which comprises:

advancing a solid-wall thermoplastic sheet and a mesh sheet, each having an upper edge, along a process line;

folding a bottom portion of said plastic sheet upwardly to define a lower edge of said thermoplastic sheet at a fold line;

sealing an upper end of the upwardly folded portion of said solid-wall thermoplastic sheet to a lower end of said mesh sheet to form a header section extending away from said mesh sheet; forming transverse slits in said sheets, and heat sealing the sheets together at edges of said slits to form separate bags between said slits, said slits extending across both sheet lower edges of the bag but being spaced from said upper edges;

dropping produce between said sheet upper edges into said bags; and

heat sealing said bags adjacent to the upper edges thereof.

10. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 9 in which, by said heat sealing, ~~at least some of said heat seals~~ are formed by a heat seal die which comprises first and second heat seal bars for forming heat seal lines between said plastic sheet and said mesh sheet, said heat seal bars being spaced in parallel relation from each other no more than about two inches apart, said heat seal die further comprising a heated cutter edge for cutting linear cuts in said plastic sheet and mesh sheet, said cutter edge being positioned between said heat seal bars; and further including the step of a system for heating said heat seal bars and the cutter edge above the softening temperature of the plastic sheet.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 10 in which said heat seal bars carry a high-temperature-stable, anti-adhesive layer to prevent sticking of said plastic sheets to said seal bars.

12. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 10 including the step of heating a heater rod in which a said heater rod extends through a cutter body that defines said cutter edge, a major portion of said heater rod being in contact with said cutter body and a minor portion of said heater rod being in contact with said heat seal bars, whereby and the heater rod is heated to raise the temperature of said cutter edge is greater than the temperature of said seal bars where they engage the plastic sheet and the mesh sheet.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 12 in which said heat seal bars comprise arms of an integral, U-shaped structure.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 10 in which said mesh sheet comprises at least two sets of parallel strands in crossing relation to each other, one of said sets of

strands being substantially parallel to the direction of advancement of said thermoplastic sheet and said mesh sheet along said process line.

15. (Currently amended) The method of preparing bags for produce or the like, which comprises:

advancing a solid-wall thermoplastic sheet and a mesh sheet, each having an upper edge, along a process line;

folding a bottom portion of said plastic sheet upwardly to define a lower edge of said thermoplastic sheet at a fold line; and

sealing an upper end of the upwardly folded portion of said solid-wall thermoplastic sheet to a lower edge end of said mesh sheet to form a header section extending away from said mesh sheet; and transversely heat sealing the sheets together to form separate bags which are laterally connected together to form a strip of said connected bags.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 in which the transverse heat sealing includes the step of forming transverse slits in said sheets, and heat sealing the sheets together at edges of said slits to form separate bags between said slits, said slits extending across the lower edge of the bags, but being spaced from said upper edge, whereby said bags remain as a laterally connected, integral web of a plurality of bags.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 in which an indicia strip is inserted into the sealed, upwardly folded portion of said solid-wall thermoplastic sheet, said strip being enclosed by a pair of thermoplastic sheet portions.

18. (Original) The method of claim 15 in which an indicia strip is inserted into the sealed, upwardly folded portion of said solid-wall thermoplastic sheet to be enclosed by a pair of thermoplastic sheet portions.

19. (Original) The method of claim 9 which further includes the steps of:
dropping produce between said sheet upper edges into said bag prior to heat sealing said bags adjacent to the upper edges thereof to seal the bag interiors; and
separating the joined bags.

20. (Currently amended) The method of filling laterally joined bags with produce or the like, a plurality of which bags comprise a strip of solid-wall thermoplastic sheeting and a strip of mesh sheeting, each peripherally joined together, with the solid-wall sheet having a folded bottom portion to define a lower edge of said bags and defining a portion of each bag where both sides are made of the solid wall sheeting, one end of said solid-wall sheeting being sealed to a lower edge end of said mesh sheet to form a header section extending away from said mesh sheet, which method comprises:

dropping produce between upper edges of said solid-wall and mesh sheeting into said bags;

heat sealing said bags adjacent to the upper edges thereof; and

separating the respective bags.

21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 20 which includes the step of forming in which said side seals of the bags ~~are formed~~ by a heat seal die which comprises first and second heat seal bars forming heat seal lines between said plastic sheet and said mesh sheet, said heat seal bars being spaced in parallel relation from each other no more than about two inches apart, said heat seal die further comprising a

heated cutter edge for cutting linear cuts in said plastic sheet and mesh sheet, said cutter edge being positioned between the said heat seal bars, and further including the step of a system for heating said heat seal bars and the cutter edge to about above the softening temperature of the plastic sheet.

22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15 in which said transverse heat sealing is done ~~said side seals of the bags are formed~~ by a heat seal die which comprises first and second heat seal bars for forming heat seal lines between said plastic sheet and said mesh sheet, said heat seal bars being spaced in parallel relation from each other no more than about two inches apart, said heat seal die further comprising a heated cutter edge for cutting linear cuts in said plastic sheet and mesh sheet, said cutter edge being positioned between the said heat seal bars, and including the step of providing a system for heating said heat seal bars and the cutter edge to above ~~about~~ the softening temperature of the plastic sheet.

23. (Currently amended) The method of claim 22 including the step of heating ~~in which~~ a heater rod which extends through a cutter body that defines said cutter edge, a major portion of said heater rod being in contact with said cutter body and a minor portion of said heater rod being in contact with said heat seal bars, whereby the temperature of said cutter edge is greater than the temperature of said heat seal bars where they engage the plastic sheet and the mesh sheet.

24. (Original) The method of claim 20 in which said mesh sheet comprises at least two sets of parallel strands in crossing relation to each other, and including the step of advancing said laterally joined bags along a process line, one of said sets of

strands being substantially parallel to the direction of advancement of said joined bags along said process line.

25. (Original) The method of claim 9 in which said mesh sheet comprises at least two sets of parallel strands in crossing relation to each other, and including the step of advancing said laterally joined bags along a process line, one of said sets of strands being substantially parallel to the direction of advancement of said thermoplastic sheet and said mesh sheet along said process line.

26. (New) The method of claim 9 including the step of inserting an indicia strip into the header section, ~~and indicia strip~~, said strip being enclosed by thermoplastic sheet portions of said header section.

27. (New) The method for preparing bags for produce of the like, which comprises:

advancing a solid-wall thermoplastic sheet and a mesh sheet, each having an upper edge, along a process line;

and folding a bottom portion of said plastic sheet upwardly to define a lower edge of said thermoplastic sheet at a fold line; and

sealing an upper end of the upwardly folded portion of said solid-wall thermoplastic sheet to a lower end of said mesh sheet to form a header section extending away from said mesh sheet, both sides of said header section being made of said solid-wall thermoplastic sheeting; inserting an indicia strip into the sealed, upwardly folded portion of said solid-wall thermoplastic sheet that comprises said header section; transversely heat sealing the sheets together to form separate bags which are laterally connected together to form a strip of said connected bags, said transverse heat sealing

including the step of forming transverse slits in said sheets which cuts said indicia strip into separate sections, and heat sealing the sheets together at edges of said slits to form separate bags between the slits, said slits extending across the lower edge of said bags, but being spaced from said upper edge, whereby said bags remain as a laterally connected, integral web of a plurality of bags; and thereafter separating at least one bag from said strip.

28. (New) The method of claim 27 in which, prior to separating bags from said laterally connected, integral web, dropping produce between said sheet upper edges into said bag, and then heat sealing said bags adjacent to the upper edges thereof to seal the bag interiors.

29. (New) The method of claim 20 in which an indicia strip is inserted into the header section to be enclosed by a pair of thermoplastic sheet portions, and sealing said indicia strip within said header section.

30. (New) The method of claim 9 in which an indicia strip is inserted into the header section to be enclosed by a pair of thermoplastic sheet portions, and sealing said indicia strip within said header section.